

16 January 1980

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MEMORANDUM FOR: DDCI
FROM : C/NESA/OPA
SUBJECT : Hostage Crisis

In my view, the hostage crisis is a complex political phenomenon and its most significant dimensions bear on Khomeini's effort to push through his Islamic Republic and the captors' as yet ill-defined goal of establishing some future political role for themselves in the new republic. The latter point is difficult to prove and even to articulate but I think the attached FBIS reports illustrates the first point in depicting Khomeini's concern over threats posed to his Republic and his efforts to exploit the hostage crisis as a device for rallying support to his side. I think it would be useful if you passed the attachments to the DCI and DDCI for their background reading.

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CC: NIO/NESA
D/OPA

[Text] The leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, has received in holy Qom some Muslim student followers of the imam's policy. Addressing the students, the leader of the Islamic Revolution said:

In the name of God, the merciful the compassionate. I implore God almighty to protect you, the youths who are clinging to Islam and who are working in the service of Islam. I also implore God almighty to grant you continued success to realize the sublime Islamic objectives.

To my knowledge, the United States does not intend to intervene in Iran militarily, nor does it want to organize an economic blockade against Iran. The United States is well aware that its economic blockade is doomed to failure. It has taken a direct path to harm us from within. It has drawn up its relevant plans since the beginning, perhaps through revolutions that have taken place. [sentence as heard]

Those opportunists who are trying to offset the damages that have befallen them, are planning to strike at the revolution from within. There are now hands working in this direction. Perhaps the objective behind the statements on the military intervention or the economic blockade is to distract our attention from what is taking place in our country.

Do not neglect these satans, against whom we waged the war. They have known their path to the East throughout history. They conducted studies about countries. They also dispatched experts to the East. They attacked and exploited these countries step-by-step. They used to destroy every object everywhere and used to draw up maps in order to get to know your country and your wealth. They used to give special attention to the condition of the Iranian people and the peoples of the East.

As far as Iran is concerned, there are various tribes, including the Bakhtiari, Khuzestan and others. They used to delegate experts to get to know these tribes situations. They used to incite and instigate these tribes. They conducted comprehensive studies in this regard. They also conducted studies on nontribual peoples for the sake of forming parties and motivating these parties to challenge each other.

The scheme is currently presented in the following shape: the Iranian people have no discipline. There is no government in Iran, and Iran is in its death throes.

Bakhtiar, the last prime minister of the deposed and defunct regime, has said that Khomeyni is in his death throes and has asked: What will happen to this country? All this is aimed at harming us from within and at fomenting troubles in order to present an image abroad that there is no discipline in Iran and to justify their military intervention, if the need arises. They want to insinuate to the world that freedom and independence are premature matters for the Iranian people.

Abroad, they mislead the peoples with poisonous reports. They say: Look how this country was given freedom and is now swept with confusion and chaos. They will say that these people should be protected and a custodianship should be imposed over their fate.

The imam said: Our people should be constantly vigilant and cautious and should not be afraid of foreign enemies in order to ward off any harm on the domestic level.

You should not fear the foreign enemy. You should fear the internal enemies. Look how our steps to strengthen the government were immediately opposed. They [presumably the internal enemies] sought to obstruct the process of setting up the Islamic Republic. They even destroyed some ballot boxes.

They set some places afire. They forcibly prevented the people from casting their votes. The people, however, scored victory in this step and exposed them.

They did not stop their action. Wielders of poisonous pens have, following the decision to draft the constitution, created trouble and are fabricating baseless reports and allusions. Some of them used to say that this constitution is the same as the previous one put with some changes in the articles.

They also introduced some obstacles vis-a-vis the election of the Council of Experts. Following the formation of the council and after its members started to study the constitution, the enemies were wholeheartedly engrossed in disrupting the situation. They even challenged the people and said that their election is nonpatriotic. I wonder: should a patriot need the support of the minority to become a patriot?

The Imam said: Henceforth, obstacles were introduced from every angle. Now that the people are getting prepared to elect the president of the republic [words indistinct]. You have seen how they managed to foment troubles and confusion in Tabriz, Qom and Tehran. They are planning to obstruct the achievement of the Islamic Republic.

Some 124 persons have nominated themselves for the presidency. What does this mean? Ten of these are hardly known to the people, and some of them are fools and deviates. Why this large number of nominees? Do they hope to win the election? Do they expect many people to vote in their favor? They want to create problems. You will see which groups are launching propaganda campaigns. This is not for the sake of assuming the presidential post, but for inciting confusion. This is bound to insinuate that Iran is a country in which well over 120 persons want to become president.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, said: The blow dealt to the superpowers by Iran is historically unprecedented, even during World War II.

Speaking on the symbol of the victory of our Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni said: We had no war equipment. But praise be to God, he has granted us his blessings and mercy. This divine victory is historically unprecedented, except for the beginning of Islam. God almighty infused terror in the souls of our enemies, which led to our victory.

Not long ago, we saw how we achieved the unity of our ranks. In Paris I had big hopes that we will achieve unity, God willing.

In conclusion, the Imam said: We must work sincerely, seriously and with all strength to abort the plots. We must abide by our true religion and depend on Islam and the Koran in order to achieve our desired hopes and aspirations, to raise high the banner of Islam and to revive its glory and greatness.